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 ACTION ARA-01

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-13	AID-01	AMAD-01	CEA-01	CEQ-01	SJK-01
	COME-00	CTME-00	DINT-05	DOEE-00	DPR-01	DS-00	EB-01
	E-01	FRB-03	HA-09	H-01	INM-01	INRE-00	INR-01
	JUSE-00	L-03	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-09	OMB-01
	OPIC-08	PA-01	PM-01	PRS-01	P-01	SCT-03	SNP-01
	SP-01	SS-01	STR-20	TRSE-00	T-01	USIE-00	EPAE-00
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P 272301Z NOV 91  
 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0590  
 INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
 AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
 AMEMBASSY LIMA  
 AMEMBASSY QUITO  
 USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM  
 CIA WASHDC  
 DIA WASHDC

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SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
 TAGS: PINS, PINR, PTER, ASEC, EPET, ENRG, CO  
 SUBJECT: LATEST PIPELINE ATTACK SPILLS 10,000 BARRELS

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 REF: BOGOTA 17432

1. (U) IN ONE OF THE NATIONAL LIBERATION ARMY (ELN) GUERRILLA GROUP'S WORST TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST ECOPETROL'S CANO LIMON-COVENAS CRUDE-OIL PIPELINE THIS YEAR, 10,000 BARRELS OF CRUDE WERE SPILLED WHEN INSURGENTS BLEW UP A SEGMENT OF THE PIPELINE IN TRESAGUAS (NEAR SAN CALIXTO), NORTE DE SANTANDER DEPARTMENT, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. THE NOVEMBER 25 ATTACK FORCED A HALT IN PUMPING. THE SPILLED CRUDE CONTAMINATED THE ORU RIVER, A TRIBUTARY OF THE CATATUMBO RIVER, WHICH EMPTIES INTO VENEZUELA'S LAKE MARACAIBO

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: OSCAR J. OLSON  
 DATE/CASE ID: 5 NOV 2002 200201334

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2. (C) OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM SECURITY SPECIALIST RAUL JANER TOLD POLOFF LATE NOVEMBER 27 THAT PUMPING STILL WAS SUSPENDED, AWAITING REPAIR OF THE DAMAGE, WHICH THEY EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER 28. HE SAID CLEANUP CREWS WERE CONTINUING TO WORK OVERTIME TO LIMIT THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE. JANER BLAMED THE ELN'S CARLOS ARMANDO CACUA GUERRERO FRONT, WHICH OPERATES IN THE AREA OF THE ATTACK.

3. (C) COMMENT: OCCIDENTAL, WHICH BUILT AND HELPS OPERATE THE PIPELINE, HAS BEEFED UP SECURITY AROUND ITS PUMPING STATIONS AND OTHER INSTALLATIONS TO GUARD AGAINST THE INCREASE IN ELN SABOTAGE CONNECTED TO THE ONGOING GUERRILLA OFFENSIVE, BUT THERE IS LITTLE THAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT SUCH SABOTAGE AGAINST THE GREAT EXPANSE OF THE PIPELINE ITSELF. END COMMENT.

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